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MISSION TO MARS

PART 1 OF OUR FEATURE ON A HUMAN VOYAGE TO THE RED PLANET EXPLORES JUST HOW WE'LL GET THERE

PAGES 10 & 11

Can the cops and courts keep up with DarkMarket?

Anarchic developers learn from loss of Silk Road PAGE 4

A precious Stone with many facets

Emma takes on varied roles; plus, use Metro AR to hear from a webslinging counterpart PAGE 16

T.O. woman says police offered drink before rape

Three officers suspended from duty in France PAGE 3

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

ROM RAPTOR NETS HIS APPETITE

Heading into a crucial Game 5 against the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night, the confident Raptors say they are ready to leave everything on the floor. Expect the team modelled after swift and lethal reptiles — like this Deinonychus on display at the ROM — to tear into Nets with tooth and claw. Story, page 25. BACKGROUND PHOTO: STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Silver ruling earns praise

Owner of L.A. Clippers banned by NBA chief.
Big names hail 'huge' stand against racism

"Commissioner Silver thank you for protecting our beautiful and powerful league!! Great leader!! #BiggerThanBasketball #StriveForGreatness" — **Miami Heat star LeBron James** on Twitter

"Commissioner Silver has made the right moves in response to this unfortunate absurd spectacle." — **Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert** on Twitter

"Way to go, Commissioner Silver! The NBA stands for everybody!" — **former star Shaquille O'Neal** on Twitter

"This is a huge victory for those of us that stood against this ugly display of racism." — **Rev. Al Sharpton**

"Standing ovation for Commissioner Silver. Big-time decision standing up for the league and its players. Now, gotta see it through." — **Golden State guard Stephen Curry** on Twitter. The Warriors are facing the Clippers in the playoffs.

"We're all so fortunate to be part of a game that transcends these kinds of misguided ignorances. The beauty and ideals of our game will long outlive these kinds of things that should not happen." — **Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle**

"Credit to NBA players, the NBA community and Adam Silver for coming together and acting quickly. No room for racists in sport." — **NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 7 & 25

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, left, banned Clippers owner Donald Sterling for life. GETTY IMAGES/THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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Mayoral race

Chow unveils plan to pay for transit

Toronto residents can expect a property tax increase to raise a billion dollars for transit if Olivia Chow is elected mayor, but the candidate said the hike is dependent on a promise of matching investments from the federal and provincial governments.

"We need those two levels of government to join with us. If they say no, we will have no dollars to fix our existing subway," said Chow. "We'll have no dollars to buy new subway cars that are needed. Or new dollars to deal with the (subway) signals. If they say no then we won't spend a billion dollars."

Chow has promised to keep property tax hikes in line with inflation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayoral race

No property tax hike in Stintz plan

Toronto mayoral candidate Karen Stintz has released details of her plan to pay for transit construction that doesn't include hiking property taxes.

Stintz would dedicate $330 million of revenue from current traffic enforcement operations and $700 million of revenue from the Toronto Parking Authority to pay for new transit infrastructure.

Her plan also involves imposing a $3 levy on motorists using certain Green P garages in Toronto's core to raise $114 million annually.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Er Shun inseminated, then a little insouciant

Er Shun seemed fully recovered Tuesday after being inseminated on Sunday, playing inside her habitat on a rainy day. The Toronto Zoo's giant panda was inseminated with semen flown in from China after her mate Da Mao proved an unsuitable suitor. "It's the first time that the Chinese have ever sent giant-panda semen into North America," said Maria Franke, the Toronto Zoo's curator of mammals. In a midnight operation last Sunday, Er Shun was artificially inseminated, a Canadian first. It's unknown who the father might be — two pandas in China contributed the sperm. This was the first time six-year-old Er Shun, who arrived at the zoo last spring, had been in heat.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

T.O. woman given alcohol at Paris police HQ: Source

France. 34-year-old woman says she was poured a large glass of alcohol before the alleged attack, ignored by two officers after

The Toronto woman who alleges she was raped by two French policemen inside Paris police headquarters last week told investigators she was marched past two security checkpoints without question, poured a large glass of scotch inside one officer's office, and then assaulted by two officers in two different rooms after her glasses were knocked off, Torstar News Service has learned.

The 34-year-old daughter of a Toronto police officer also told authorities she was ignored by two French officers she encountered inside the station after she fled her alleged attackers before a third officer agreed to help her file a report.

Details are emerging about the alleged attack from a source with knowledge of the case, speaking exclusively to Torstar on condition of anonymity.

Torstar has not been able to independently verify the information, and the Paris police and the prosecutor's office repeatedly refused to answer questions about the case, saying they could not comment on an active investigation.

French prosecutors launched a formal probe over the weekend into two Paris police officers. The men are being investigated for what's called "viol de réunion," the legal term for gang rape.

A third police officer is being held as a "témoin assisté," a special witness status given in France that indicates investigators believe the person may have participated in the crime.

All three officers, who have not been named, have been suspended from duty "given the gravity of the alleged misconduct," France's interior minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, said Sunday after allegations surfaced late last week.

Speaking out

Bernard Petit, director of the Paris police service, spoke out in an interview with French radio station Europe1 on Monday, saying that although he awaits the results of the investigation, the men "no longer have a place within our unit."

A fourth male officer, initially held in custody for 48 hours after the alleged attack, has been released. According to the source, that officer helped the woman file her report, then retrieved her jacket, which was left behind. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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DarkMarket: The Silk Road that police can't shut down

Hackathon winners. Site for buying and selling goods, legal and illegal, rooted in a philosophy of fighting centralized power

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

A screengrab of the DarkMarket homepage. METRO

In a Toronto hotel room earlier this month, a group of developers created a prototype of the next-generation Silk Road — only, unlike the infamous deep web market, it can't be shut down.

DarkMarket is a prototype of a decentralized peer-to-peer marketplace. The finished product will be like eBay, in that it will have sellers' pages offering their goods or services and a reputation reviewing and rating system.

Like Silk Road, it will offer users security, anonymity and freedom from law enforcement to buy and sell both legal or illegal goods and services with Bitcoin.

However, the key concept is unlike both Silk Road or eBay: The architecture of the market itself would be hosted by all of the participants, instead of centralized servers. Why that's important can be explained by analogy: DarkMarket is to Silk Road as BitTorrent is to Napster in that because it's decentralized nothing can shut it down.

A proof-of-concept of DarkMarket was created within 24 hours by a group of developers for the In Cryptro We Trust Bitcoin hackathon — and they won.

The initial concept came from Amir Taaki, an anarchist developer known for libbitcoin and Dark Wallet, and listed by Forbes as one of the top 30 entrepreneurs under 30 in 2014, and his colleague Pablo Martin. They were joined by Airbitz developers Damian Cutillo and William Swanson.

Taaki introduced DarkMarket at the hackathon with a manifesto saying: "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. The early attempts at shutting down centralized file sharing services ended up spawning stronger technology.

"Like a hydra, those of us in the community that push for individual empowerment are in an arms race to equip the people with the tools needed for the next generation of digital black markets."

The hackathon group espouses an ideology of free markets.

"Knowing that markets run the world, I thought it's a very powerful idea," said Cutillo. "The whole decentralization movement is about trying to steer away from the black hole humanity faces with centralizing power, centralizing absolute power, especially over the Internet, which is one of the greatest tools humanity has."

The work the group did on the DarkMarket application has much more potential than just creating a new improved market, said Cutillo and Swanson. The ability to decentralize the application server among users is powerful, and could be applied to other things. For example, it could run other decentralized software such as a communication platform or WikiLeaks-like system, none of which could be shut down.

Quoted

"It's possible we could have something for the entire planet to use and maintain one of those basic rights we've always had as humans: To trade with each other outside of violence and coercive control."

Airbitz developer Damian Cutillo

Planting the seeds

Finishing touches

The original hackathon team doesn't plan to finish DarkMarket, but put code online for anyone to use and change, and other developers are actively doing just that.

A finished, working marketplace with active sellers seems near.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it was working in six months," said Swanson.

"This was just to plant the seed to say, 'Hey, look what can be done in one day,' and it's possible we could have something for the entire planet to use and maintain one of those basic rights we've always had as humans: To trade with each other outside of violence and coercive control," Cutillo said.

It's possible that the finished product will be as easy for a novice to use as a phone app, but with features keeping them and their transactions anonymous, Cutillo said.

Girl running out of cash for life-saving drug

Madi Vanstone
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A 12-year-old girl with a rare disease scolded the Ontario government on Tuesday for the slow pace of its efforts to help lower the price for a life-saving drug she relies on that costs $349,000 a year.

"I am very frustrated," said Madi Vanstone from Beeton, Ont. "I don't know what to say to make them listen."

Madi relies on Kalydeco to treat a rare form of cystic fibrosis, but is running out of money raised by friends and family and may soon lose insurance coverage that has been helping pay for the costly drug.

Premier Kathleen Wynne promised Madi during a meeting last month that she would expedite a joint effort by the provinces to deal with the American manufacturer of Kalydeco to try and lower the price so it can be covered by medicare.

Alberta, which is leading the talks on Kalydeco, made three proposals to the drug maker Vertex, but the company rejected each one.

Madi returned to the Ontario legislature Tuesday to say things are taking way too long and little is actually being done.

"They're not moving forward, and we can't wait," she said. "There's no time, and they're not doing anything."

There are only about 118 Canadians who would be eligible for Kalydeco if it were covered by provincial health insurance plans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Domestic violence. How to help when a victim of abuse reaches out to you

One in four Canadians have tried to help a friend leave an abusive partner, according to a new survey from the Canadian Women's Foundation — which also has advice on how to help.

Leigh Naturkach, manager of violence prevention programs at the Canadian Women's Foundation, said she wasn't surprised by the statistic because the stigma that still exists around abuse means it makes sense that victims turn to a trusted friend.

"The one-in-four statistic shows we are all connected, in some way, to the issue of violence," she said.

"We do get a lot of inquiries around how people can help others if violence is disclosed," she said. "The No. 1 thing that we tell people is to be supportive — if someone comes to you to disclose abuse don't tell them what to do. Be there to listen to them tell their story. It's really up to the person who's experiencing the abuse to make decisions for themselves and feel they are in control of what they want to do."

Naturkach said one should be careful about how they communicate with the victim about the abuse, since many abusers closely monitor their victim's communications.

Put the victim in charge and carefully help them find the right resources for help, she said. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

Reporting abuse

- The survey found that although Canadians are likely to report abuse — emotional, verbal, physical or sexual — to their friends, 13 per cent of respondents say they are not confident their friends would believe them.
- More respondents, 16 per cent, worried they wouldn't be believed by family, doctors (15 per cent) and police or other authorities (28 per cent).

Navigating a flooded road is just a bad idea

The driver of a BMW attempted to navigate a flooded roadway in Taylor Creek and found himself stranded. Severe rain storms inundated Toronto's ravines and storm drains Tuesday, and resulted in widespread flooding in ravines and creeks. More rain is forecast for the next few days before the sun breaks through again on Friday.

VICTOR BIRO/FOR METRO

Eglinton. LRT grinds forward ... again

About 16 metres below the FreshCo grocery store on Eglinton Ave. W., tunnelling machine Lea is chomping through the earth on schedule, with tunnelling machine Dennis a couple hundred metres ahead.

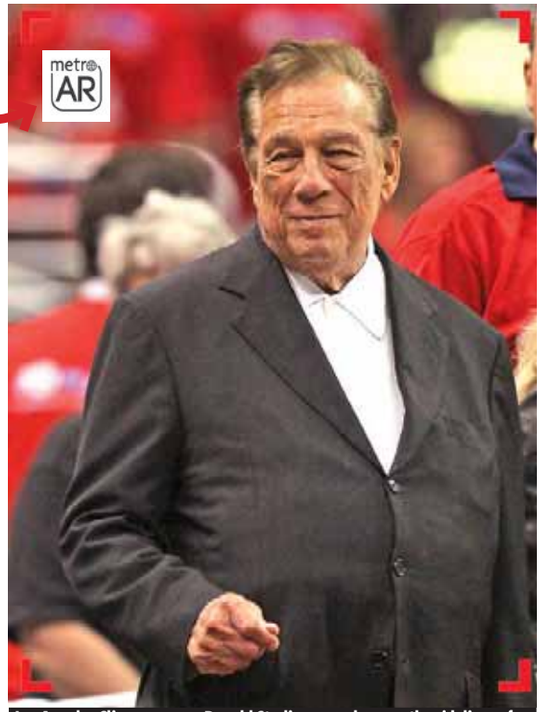
Work for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT is ticking along underground, but above-ground is where the team has faced some challenges.

"If anything, what's been driving the schedule this entire project hasn't been the tunnelling, it's been all the surface work — all the utility work," said Gary Kramer, Metrolinx's resident engineer.

Construction as a whole is back on schedule, says Kramer, after some delays experienced with above-ground work. So far, Keele and Caledonia stations have been poured and crews are working on Dufferin station.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

See that symbol? Scan the image below with your Metro News app to listen to Donald Sterling's conversation with his girlfriend.



Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, seen here on the sidelines of a 2012 NBA playoffs game, won't get to watch his team in the current playoffs after the NBA banned him for life in response to racist comments the league says he made in a recorded conversation. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA clips Sterling's wings with lifetime ban

Racist comments.
League commissioner says Clippers' owner acknowledged he was the man on the tape

Issuing about the strongest rebuke that he could, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling for life Tuesday for making racist comments in a recorded conversation, the first step toward forcing a sale of the club and permanently removing Sterling from the league.

Silver also fined Sterling $2.5 million US.

Sterling, the league's longest-tenured owner and someone with an estimated net worth of about $2 billion US, did not offer any immediate comment.

Silver said a league investigation found that Sterling was in fact the person on the audiotapes that were released over the weekend.

Sterling still owns the team, but going forward he is immediately barred from attending any NBA games or practices, being present at any Clippers office or facility, participating in any business or player personnel decisions involving the team.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction

"This league is far bigger than any one owner, any one coach and any one player."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, speaking at a press conference Tuesday in New York City to discuss Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

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Dan Wassman gets a hug from friend Amy Lundsford at the home site of his son, also named Dan, who was killed when a tornado destroyed his home late Sunday afternoon in Vilonia, Ark. MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

Tornadoes ravage the Deep South

Death and destruction. Storm system the latest onslaught of severe weather in the area

A storm system that spawned a chain of deadly tornadoes over three days flattened homes and businesses, forced frightened residents in more than half a dozen states to take cover and left tens of thousands in the dark Tuesday.

As the storm hopscotched across a large swath of the U.S., the overall death toll reached more than 30, killed Monday and Sunday in a band stretching from Oklahoma to Alabama.

Some awoke Tuesday to find their loved ones missing and their homes pulverized. In Louisville, firefighters picked through the remains of mobile homes, and 20 of them linked hands to wade through debris.

With water and roof damage, the small local hospital's emergency room was evacuated Monday. "We thought we were going to be OK, then a guy came in and said, 'It's here right now,'" said Dr. Michael Henry. "Then boom! It blew through."

"You see this in movies," said Abby Tucker, 27. "You don't see it in your own backyard."

The storm system is the latest onslaught of severe weather a day after a tornado carved a 130-kilometre path of destruction through Little Rock, Ark., killing at least 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surreal

"You see this in movies .... You don't see it in your own backyard."
Abby Tucker, 27

New Mexico. Vigilante praised for killing robbers

Mexico City officials said Tuesday an unidentified man disarmed a thief trying to rob passengers aboard a bus, then shot him and another thief to death before fleeing.

The Mexico City prosecutor's office said the bodies of two men were found at the scene of the shooting late Monday, as were two pistols — one of them a toy.

The office quoted witnesses as saying the two men had started robbing passengers at gunpoint when one bus rider wrestled a gun away from one thief, shot him and then killed the accomplice. The other thief may have been holding the toy pistol.

The passenger is being called "the anonymous avenger" or "Vengador Anonimo" in various local media.

Passengers in the neighbouring State of Mexico have often resisted armed assaults aboard buses there, often paying with their lives.

Crime-weary Mexicans have expressed strong support for vigilante actions such as the "self-defence" movement of armed farmers who are fighting a drug cartel in the western state of Michoacan.

The comments in Mexican newspapers were full of praise for the unidentified man. No arrests have been made in the shootings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspect dead

Six wounded in FedEx shooting

A FedEx employee wearing ammunition across his chest opened fire Tuesday at a package-sorting centre outside Atlanta, wounding six people, three critically, before committing suicide, police and witnesses said.

The suspect, identified by police as 19-year-old Geddy Kramer of Acworth, was found dead inside. He worked as a package handler at the sprawling facility, Cobb County police Sgt. Dana Pierce said. Investigators have an idea of what his motive may have been but were not prepared to disclose it, Pierce said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian judge says Knox delivered 'mortal blow'

In this 2011 file photo, Amanda Knox gestures during a press conference, in Seattle. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2007 murder. Court that reinstated guilty verdict in death of Meredith Kercher explains why

The Italian appeals court that reinstated the conviction against Amanda Knox in her British roommate's 2007 murder said in a lengthy reasoning made public Tuesday that Knox herself delivered the fatal blow out of a desire to "overpower and humiliate" the victim.

Presiding Judge Alessandro Nencini concluded in a 337-page document that the evidence "inevitably leads to the upholding of the criminal responsibility" against Knox and her former Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito for the murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in the town of Perugia.

The University of Washington student has been in the United States since 2011, when her earlier conviction was overturned. Knox, 26, has vowed to fight the reinstated conviction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The decision

Nencini's reasoning assigned the role of each assailant:

- Sollecito used a small knife that caused a wound on Kercher's neck and also was used to remove her bra, the judge wrote. He added it was Knox who "delivered the only mortal blow," with a kitchen knife.

Colorado. BYOW — like BYOB, but with weed

Saying it's bring your own weed, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra will play a series of fundraising concerts sponsored by the state's burgeoning pot industry.

In a statement Tuesday, symphony CEO Jerome Kern says they're part of efforts to reach a broader audience.

The state's only full-time professional orchestra, like others, has struggled with dwindling audiences and budget problems.

Listeners are encouraged to bring their own marijuana to smoke or eat. Smoking will be allowed at the private venues where the first two 21-and-up concerts will be held.

Organizers say they will follow the rules at the final show at the publicly owned Red Rocks Amphitheater, where smoking is officially banned.

Symphony volunteer guild member Judith Inman says she knows the symphony is facing challenges but is skeptical of the marijuana mash-up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A BRAVE NEW EARTH

Why go to Mars?
Futurists say the better question is: Why not?

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Peering into the coming decades, Glen Hiemstra has little doubt that humans will one day walk on Mars.

"It's a question of inevitability more than a question of feasibility," the Seattle-based author, consultant and founder of futurist.com told Metro. "We will eventually go there."

While Hiemstra described the goal of the Mars One project to land settlers on the Red Planet in 2025 as "very ambitious," he also believes the timeline isn't all that far off.

"In my opinion, optimistically, it's the 2030s, not the 2020s," he said. "Realistically, it's probably the 2040s, 2050s before we've really assembled everything that we need."

Len Rosen, the Toronto-based author of 21st Century Tech Blog, foresees a similar timeframe for humanity's first footprints on Martian soil.

"The most optimistic people think in the 2030s — somewhere in that decade," said the 65-year-old Rosen. "I'm hoping I'll be alive to see it."

Questions of how aside, both Rosen and Hiemstra had similar answers when asked the bigger question: Why should we go to Mars?

Neither thought it likely that, in the immediate future at least, humans would need another planet to escape some calamity on Earth. Rather, they said, it's more a matter of satisfying our natural desire to explore.

"Curiosity is a huge part of our human nature," Rosen said. "Why do you climb a mountain to the top? You're not doing it because you feel you need to find something at the top of the mountain, other than the satisfaction."

Hiemstra said there is a certain "lifeboat aspect to settling somewhere else," adding that humanity will need another planet at some point in the distant, distant future, but for now that's not the main driver to send people to Mars.

"I think it's really driven more by the exploratory impulse," he said.

That impulse has been behind many past human achievements, Rosen noted.

"What drove us to learn how to build aircraft?" he said. "At the time I don't think anybody thought we needed to do it, but we did it. And now, what would be our world without air transport?"

WELCOME TO THE RED PL

A human expedition to Mars is proposed within the next 15 years. Over the next three days, Metro will take you on a pre-flight trip to show you how we'll get there, who might be first to go, and what it might be like when they arrive in this new frontier.

Spacecraft propulsion *of the past, present and future ...*

Faster and faster. The roughly seven-month trip to Mars is seen as one of the major challenges in sending people to the Red Planet.

Such a long journey will take a toll on astronauts, both in terms of exposure to high levels of space radiation and the long-term effects of microgravity on the human body. But scientists are researching all sorts of different ways to speed up spacecraft and cut down on the travel time. Here are some of the propulsion methods being considered:

Liquid-fuelled rockets

This is the type of propulsion that has been sending rockets off of the Earth's surface since the 1950s. It remains the most feasible and readily available method of powering spacecraft, although the challenge for interplanetary travel (rather than just putting craft in orbit) is that it requires both fuel and oxygen — and that can become burdensome to carry, as oxygen accounts for most of the mass in typical propellant combinations.

Ion/plasma thrusters

This approach to propulsion uses electric forces to hurl tiny charged particles at high speeds. Many satellites already use this technology to help stabilize their orbits. These thrusters have been eyed for extremely long-distance space travel, as they can provide small but continuous acceleration for months, even years. But a former NASA astronaut is working on a "Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket" (VASIMR) he believes could one day reach Mars in just 40 days.

Nuclear fission

Splitting atoms to derive energy is an attractive option because a tiny amount of nuclear fuel can deliver an enormous amount of propulsion. The main challenge lies in safely controlling the fission reaction, as you don't want a meltdown in space. Nevertheless, NASA is working on a "Fission Fragment Rocket Engine" that it believes could provide "significant thrust" using "small amounts of readily available, energy dense, long lasting fuel."

Nuclear fusion

This process involves the smashing of atoms together rather than splitting them apart, but it is similarly attractive because it harnesses massive amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel. A deuterium-tritium fuel pellet the size of a grain of sand could deliver as much propulsion as a gallon of liquid rocket fuel from a "Fusion Drive Rocket" under development by NASA and the University of Washington.

Anti matter engine

Anti matter engines are largely the stuff of science fiction, but the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts is funding a team of researchers who are looking into the possibility of such technology. The idea is to collide matter with antimatter, resulting in a complete annihilation of mass, all of which is converted to energy. As NASA writes on its website: "While tons of chemical fuel are needed to propel a human mission to Mars, just tens of milligrams of antimatter will do."

ISTOCK

Mission to Mars: Day 1

- **Day 2, Thursday:** Hopeful pioneers will likely have to bid farewell to their loved-ones forever — *and* live the not-so-glamorous life of an astronaut.
- **Day 3, Friday:** OK, so we've landed. Now what? Will there be taxes, a government? (So many questions, but we've got some answers); plus we talk to a real-live guinea pig.
- Check **metronews.ca** for an interactive timeline

Success rate climbing with successive missions

Historically, more missions to Mars have failed than succeeded, but the success rate is climbing as technology improves and new missions build on the lessons of previous ones.

NASA, itself, has seen a string of recent successes, from the Spirit and Opportunity rovers in 2003, to the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2007, to the famous Curiosity rover that landed in 2012 and has been sending back high-definition imagery every since.

NASA's next major mission, named InSight, is set to launch in March 2016 with the goal of landing a robotic drill on the Red Planet that will probe five metres into Martian soil.

Working on the robot is Catherine Johnson, a professor of planetary geophysics at the University of British Columbia, who said the tricky task of safely placing a delicate lander on the surface of Mars is becoming easier in one sense, but harder in another.

"One of the things that is becoming more and more challenging — in a good way — is that we have more and more information about the surface of Mars now, at higher and higher resolution," she said.

"So our criteria for what is a safe landing site gets stricter and stricter."

But even with a perfectly calculated trajectory and an ideal location to land, Johnson said there's one curveball Mars can still throw at you — the weather.

"A planet with an atmosphere, even if it's only a thin atmosphere like on Mars, that atmosphere can be quite variable," she said. "You never know exactly what's going to be happening the day you land."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Success and failures

In a "historical log" of 41 missions (not all of them landing missions) undertaken by various countries since 1960, NASA counts:

- **23** as having failed
- **16** as having succeeded
- **2** as "success/failure" for partially achieving their goals

An artist's conception of the stationary NASA Mars lander known as InSight, set to launch in March 2016 with the goal of drilling into the interior of Mars.

COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Journey to Mars

Hundreds of millions of kilometres on a slingshot-trip around the sun

A depiction of how a spacecraft would go from Earth to Mars using a Hohmann transfer orbit.

IMAGE COURTESY GEORGIA TECH SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND NAVIGATION COURSE

The trip to Mars is a long one.

Next to Venus, the Red Planet is the second closest to Earth, but the direct distance from here to there is still measured in the tens of millions — sometimes hundreds of millions — of kilometres.

That's because, as Earth and Mars each make their way around the sun, the distance between the two terrestrial planets varies widely.

At its closest, Mars can be about 55 million kilometres away. At its furthest, it's more than 400 million kilometres away. Earth has the inside track around the sun, orbiting every 365 days, while the Mars year is longer – roughly 687 days.

The difference between their orbital periods means that Earth "laps" Mars about once every 26 months.

These moments present an ideal launch window for spacecraft, although even then the journey is not a direct, A-to-B path.

A typical trip to Mars follows what's called a "Hohmann transfer orbit," in which a spacecraft leaves Earth on one side of the sun, slingshots around the sun, and meets up with Mars on the far side of the sun from where it began. The entire journey spans hundreds of millions of kilometres and takes about seven months.

This is the route that Mars One plans to use.

According to its ambitious schedule, the non-profit foundation aims to launch unmanned spacecraft carrying equipment and robots to the Red Planet in 2018, 2020, and 2022, and then send the first crew of human settlers — on a one-way trip — in 2024. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Who on earth would take a one-way trip to Mars? Find out in Day 2 of Mission to Mars

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LAMBDA

Woman pleads for husband's release

Canadian held in Egypt. Health of former Morsi aide failing after 300 days

A Canadian woman is pleading for federal help to convince Egypt to release her husband from captivity in a Cairo jail.

Sarah Attia says the health of her husband, Khaled Al-Qazzaz, is deteriorating.

Attia says she's growing more worried about his fate after word this week that more than 680 people with ties to ousted president Mohammed Morsi were added to a list of those facing death sentences.

Al-Qazzaz is a former aide to Morsi and a permanent resident of Canada.

He was arrested along with Morsi and eight other presidential aides early in July of last year when the Egyptian military removed Morsi from office.

Sarah Attia, wife of Al-Qazzaz.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

While Al-Qazzaz has yet to be charged with any offence, Monday marked 300 days since his arrest.

Attia, who was born in Canada, was scheduled to meet Tuesday with Mississauga MP Stella Ambler.

Attia and Al-Qazzaz have four children ranging in age from one-and-a-half to eight years old. The two met while studying at the University of Toronto and moved to Egypt in 2005 to launch an educational project.

Al-Qazzaz campaigned for Morsi following the 2011 Egyptian uprising and was later appointed the former president's secretary on foreign relations.

"There is an increased concern that, any moment now, Khaled may witness trumped-up charges and, like others, face a death sentence as well," Attia told an Ottawa news conference.

She said she's aware that Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird recently raised Al-Qazzaz's case with the new Egyptian regime, but has no details of the discussions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds constantly ask telecoms for private data, documents show

Report. The privacy commissioner's office reveals government asks for information 1.2M times every year

Chantal Bernier THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government asks Canadian telecom companies for private customer information about 1.2 million times each year, documents released Tuesday by the federal privacy commissioner's office show.

It is unclear how many of those requests are made without a warrant. But figures provided to the office in late 2011 show wireless telecom companies complied with the government's requests for customer data at least 784,756 times.

However, the actual total is likely even greater, since only three of nine telecom companies told the commissioner's office how many times they granted the government's requests for customer data.

The numbers came to light Tuesday as Canada's acting privacy commissioner revealed that telecom companies have refused to disclose how often they release confidential customer information to the federal government without a warrant.

Chantal Bernier, the interim privacy commissioner, said her office has repeatedly asked telecom companies to disclose statistics and the scope of warrantless disclosure of data, but to no avail.

"I'm not disputing that there are times when there is no time to get a warrant — life is in danger," Bernier said.

"What we would like is for those warrantless disclosures to simply be represented in statistics so that Canadians have an idea of the scope of the phenomenon."

Bernier said the companies have only provided her office with aggregate data, which shows how many times the telecom industry as a whole gives the government customer information without a warrant. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expedited screening

PreCheck comes to Air Canada

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is expanding its PreCheck expedited screening program to passengers on international airlines.

Air Canada on Tuesday became the first international carrier to participate, with TSA officials saying other foreign airlines would soon sign on. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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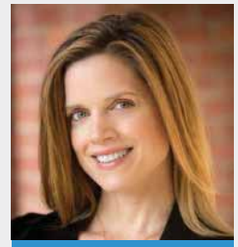
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BY GEORGE! AT LAST, A UNION FORGED

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I'm sure I'm not the only guy who ever wished he could be George Clooney, if only for a day.

A winning combination of intelligence, talent, wit, savoir faire, je ne sais quoi and all those other untranslatable French phrases, George tops it all off with matinee-idol good looks.

Not surprising. He's a matinee idol, duh.

Which is no small distinction. Matinee idols are a dying breed. All the other guys on the cover of GQ look alike and are called Hemsworth. George is the epitome of class at a time when class is 40 per cent off at the outlet mall. Who wouldn't want to be George?

Until now, George was also the world's most eligible bachelor. Apparently — I wouldn't know — that's tough. When the women of the world are throwing themselves at your feet, it can be a challenge, or so I hear. George handled the "too many women problem" by doing his best to date them all. And after a brief matrimonial experiment in the early '90s, he also tried to live with them all, one at a time, for two- to three-year stretches.

A selfless quest, if doomed to failure. There's just not enough George to go around. And, truth be told, at 53, he's not getting any younger. You could see it in Gravity. Sandra Bullock was the undisputed star and George was relegated to supporting role status as the kindly sidekick, sort of Buzz Lightyear with crinkles. Not wrinkles. George will never have wrinkles.

The signs are clear. The man who bet Michelle Pfeiffer $100,000 that he'd never get married again is ready to settle down. All those cocktail waitresses, supermodels and female wrestlers were OK when he was dating the entire female gender, but now he has to pick one.

And so he's focused that formidable charm on the world's smartest and most beautiful woman, who, in case you're wondering, is 36-year-old Amal Alamuddin. It's hard to believe she is just one woman. She tops the list of the 21 Hottest Barristers in London, was educated at Oxford, specializes in international law, speaks three languages, advises the Secretary General of the UN on human rights in Syria, represented ex-Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and helped Wikileaks founder Julian Assange resist extradition to Sweden.

I imagine it's hard to pull the wool over Ms. Alamuddin's eyes, but when the wolf mounting the charm offensive is George Clooney, what can you do? You sigh, succumb, and go to meet mom. Who, by the way, approves of this prodigious combination of beauty and brains.

Of course, this is real life, not Hollywood. The union of the world's most eligible bachelor and the paragon of global jurisprudence does not, at first blush, look like a recipe for Happily Ever After. Amal better hope George's attempt to mate, er, date the planet is over, and George better hope he doesn't end up before a world tribunal on matrimonial war crimes. Still, today, it's all about congratulations and the triumph of class over crass.

ZOOM

Science experimantis

Newcastle University scientists research vision by outfitting a praying mantis with 3D glasses.
MIKE URWIN/NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Q&A

"It's a test for their eyesight"

VIVEK NITYANANDA
Research associate at Newcastle University's Institute of Neuroscience

A praying mantis has been outfitted with the world's smallest pair of 3D glasses as part of an experiment to understand the insect's vision. Scientists from Newcastle University used beeswax to affix the five-millimetre-wide shades on the bug's head.

Here's what researcher Vivek Nityananda had to say about the experiment:

What inspired you to put 3D glasses on a bug?
We wanted to find out how three-dimensional vision has evolved. Like humans, praying mantises have 3D vision, or stereopsis. They are the only insects with such sight.

How did your mantis take to its new eyewear?
It tried to take them off at first, but eventually got pretty comfortable with them and went about its usual mantis business.

Do the glasses work?
So far, our results have been mixed. It's promising but we haven't nailed it down yet.

Maybe the insect will prefer the glasses, as a super-enhancement to its vision. (Laughs) It doesn't really change its eyesight for the better; we're just fooling it into misjudging depth. But the glasses do make them seem more sophisticated, and they definitely look weirder than they already are.

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ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Anybody who has travelled abroad has likely been warned about the skilled pickpockets who are hoping to ply your wares in the world's larger tourist havens.

But as this security footage shot in Thailand shows, keeping your belongings safe is more than just a matter of having your cash strapped to your belly and your belongings always in sight. Because a highly co-ordinated phalanx of thieves, complete with distraction games and carefully constructed props, makes for a formidable enemy.

ISTOCK

metro
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NE044G214

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app. Andrew Garfield talks about becoming Peter Parker

Stone shines in every role

From The Help to Spider-Man. Whether the role demands Lucille-Ball-style screwball comedy, fiery rage and indignation or sizzling chemistry, Emma thrives

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Spider-Man movies don't skimp on the stuff that puts the "super" into superhero movies. There's web-slinging shenanigans and wild bad guys galore, but The Amazing Spider-Man 2 director Marc Webb calls the relationship between Spidey and girlfriend Gwen Stacy, "the engine of the movie."

The chemistry the real-life couple brings to the screen is undeniable, but it almost didn't get a chance to blossom. Before Stone landed the role of the brainiac love interest, Mia Wasikowska, Imogen Poots, Emma Roberts and even Lindsay Lohan were considered.

Stone won some of the best reviews of her career playing Gwen in The Amazing Spider-Man — Peter Travers said she, "just jumps to life on screen" — in a role that gave her the biggest hit of her career to date.

Smaller roles in Superbad and Zombieland hinted at her ability to be funny and hold the screen, but in 2010's Easy A she turned a corner into full-on Lucille Ball mode, mixing pratfalls with wit while pulling faces and cracking jokes. Smart and funny, she's the film's centrepiece.

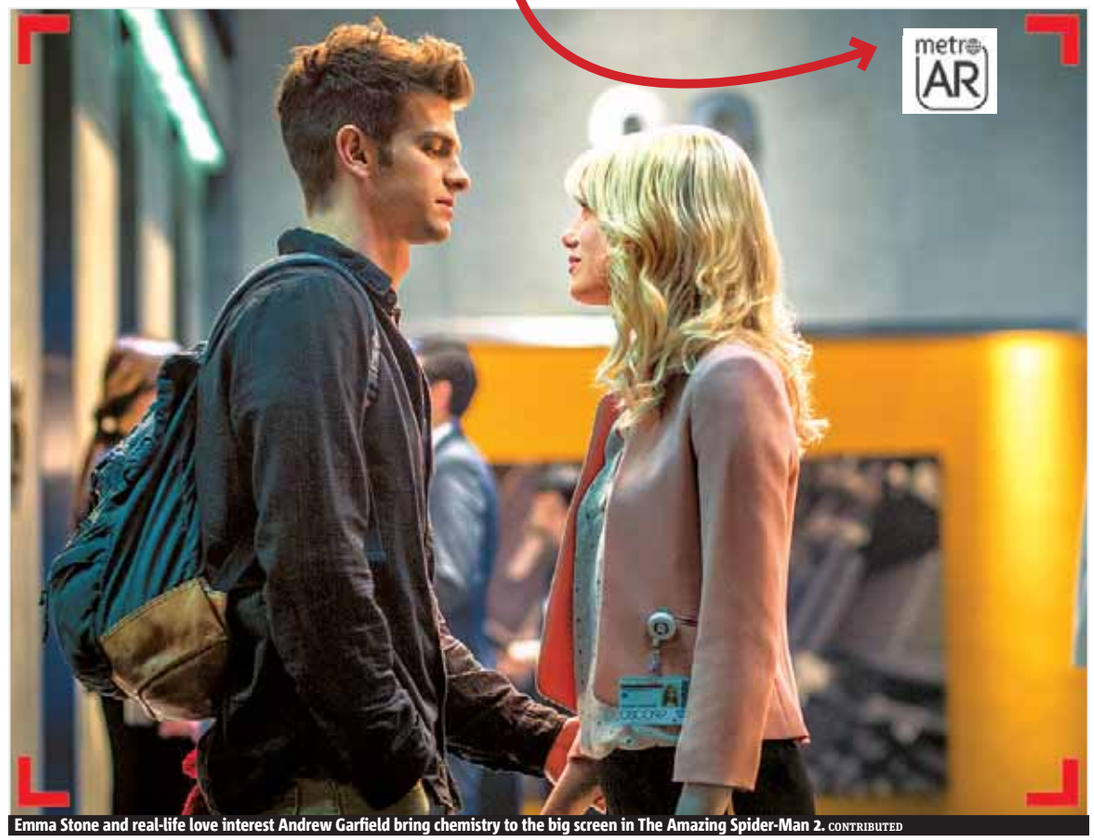
The movie begins with the voice over, "The rumours of my promiscuity have been greatly exaggerated." It's the voice of Olive (Stone), a clean-cut high school senior who tells a little white lie about losing her virginity. As soon as the gossip mill gets a hold of the info, however, her life takes a parallel course to the heroine of the book she is studying in English class — The Scarlet Letter.

Stone is laugh-out-loud funny in Easy A, but her breakout film was a serious drama.

In The Help, she plays Jackson, Miss. native "Skeeter" Phelan who comes home from four years at school to discover the woman who raised her, a maid named Constantine (Cicely Tyson), is no longer employed by her family. Her mother says she quit, but Skeeter has doubts. With the help of a courageous group of housekeepers she tells the real story of the life of the maids, writing a book called The Help.

The Flick Filosopher called her performance, "on fire with indignation and rage," and she moved from The Help to a variety of roles, including playing a femme fatale in Gangster Squad opposite Ryan Gosling and Josh Brolin, and lending her trademark raspy voice to cave girl Eep in the animated hit The Croods.

The 25-year-old actress is living her childhood dream of being an actress but says if performing hadn't worked out, she would have been a journalist, "because (investigating people's lives is) pretty much what an actor does. And imagine getting to interview people like me," she laughs. ''It can't get much better than that."



Emma Stone and real-life love interest Andrew Garfield bring chemistry to the big screen in The Amazing Spider-Man 2. CONTRIBUTED

Web slinger

Spider-Man powers get real

Patrick Priebe is the new Spider-Man ... in terms of gadgetry, at least. The German lab technician has created a working web shooter, which fires pellets and a harpoon-tipped, retractable fishing line instead of a liquid web. Far from requiring any actual superpowers, the web-slinging contraption is a battery-run coil gun that is powered through electromagnetism. Metro nets the every-day tech guru — behind the website laser-gadgets.com — for a chat about all things superhero.

The real Spider-Man catches bad guys, so do you use the web shooter to clean the streets of pests?
(Laughs) The only thing that you'll be grappling with is an apple.

Could you switch on the TV with the pellets or fishing line?
That actually might work. You could also grapple magnetic objects with the fishing line. The only problem is that they might shatter on impact.

No beer cans, then. Do you try out any kick-ass movie-style stunts?
I do a lot of sports like hockey, which is dangerous in its own way. But those stunts are way too extreme for me.

The Batman vs. Superman movie is out in the near future. Who's going to win?
Batman is too grumpy; Superman is the best of all heroes; he would kick everyone's ass. He has X-ray vision.

Patrick Priebe has invented a working web shooter, which fires pellets and a harpoon-tipped, retractable fishing line. CONTRIBUTED

Can you create the Superman-style laser eyes?
I have made laser eyewear. It's like Cyclops from X-Men, and works pretty well. It's very dangerous. That's why I don't show people how to do it on my website.

Any danger of your gadgets causing actual harm?
Well, the web shooter emits 350 volts and can shock you to death!

EDWARD THOMPSON/METRO WORLD NEWS

The cast of Star Wars: Episode VII includes up-and-comer Oscar Isaac. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Star Wars: Episode VII Cast finally announced

Star Wars: Episode VII finally has its stars. May the Force be with them.

After months of carefully guarded secrecy and endless Internet speculation, Lucasfilm and Walt Disney Co. unveiled the cast of the latest incarnation of the space epic Tuesday on the official Star Wars website.

Starring in J.J. Abrams' new Star Wars are: John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Max von Sydow, Andy Serkis and Domhnall Gleeson.

The companies declined to name the characters each will play, though Driver, the breakout star of HBO's Girls, is widely expected to be playing the film's feature villain.

They join returning Star Wars veterans Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher. Peter Mayhew is also back as Chewbacca and Kenny Baker will reprise R2-D2.

Star Wars: Episode VII, which will be set 30 years after 1983's Return of the Jedi, will be released in December 2015. Disney acquired Lucasfilm in 2012, and immediately put a new Star Wars trilogy into development. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justice League. Will Matt Damon don green tights for the role of Aquaman?

Rumours have it that Matt Damon could be slated to join his longtime friend Ben Affleck on the set of Zack Snyder's forthcoming superhero movie. That's the buzz on TheWrap.com.

Matt Damon could board Justice League, the feature on the DC Comics superhero team, along the same lines as Marvel's Avengers. The speculation should be regarded as such, however, especially since the character he is thought to play is not even guaranteed to appear in the movie.

Damon may be in line to play Aquaman, king of the underwater city of Atlantis, whose superpowers include telepathy and superhuman strength.

If the rumours are true, Damon will co-star with Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill, who are expected to return as Batman and Superman respectively.

The other persistent rumours surrounding Justice League pertain to its possible release date. While Latino Review thinks the feature will be in theatres on May 5, 2017, the Wall Street Journal indicates that the feature will be released in 2018 at the earliest. AFP

Matt Damon is rumoured to be on board for the upcoming Justice League film. ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOULAT/ AFP

Online TV

Yahoo unveils original online show content

Yahoo has unveiled original online shows and new advertising options as it continues a long-running attempt to evolve into an Internet venue for premier content.

The offerings will include two comedy programs, a partnership with Live Nation to stream concerts, an online travel magazine, and new advertising capabilities.

Other Space, a science fiction comedy, will centre on a spaceship crew winding up in an alternate universe in the early 22nd century, while Sin City Saints tells the story of a Silicon Valley tycoon who buys a Las Vegas pro basketball team.

The new shows will launch on Yahoo Screen next year and be viewable on mobile devices, desktop computers or through Apple TV or Roku set-top boxes. AFP

HBO

Game of Thrones sets ratings record

The HBO fantasy series Game of Thrones achieved a new record audience with the fourth episode of its fourth season, entitled Oathkeeper, which aired on Sunday, April 27.

The broadcast was watched by close to seven million viewers at 9 p.m., and the total audience number climbed to 8.4 million when taking into account viewers of rebroadcasts through the night. AFP

Season 4, Episode 4 of Game of Thrones was the most-watched yet. HBO

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Donald Sterling's girlfriend, V. Stiviano, reads Metro?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

V. STIVIANO/INSTAGRAM

After the audio tapes of Clippers' owner Donald Sterling spewing racial slurs hit, his alleged girlfriend and leaker of those tapes, V. Stiviano, made her Instagram account public for the world to see. And if you haven't looked at it, you should. It is truly weird and obnoxious — she overuses hashtags more than a 13-year-old girl.

After some sleuthing, we stumbled upon this shot of her reading a Metro with the caption, "I'm searching for love in the classified section!"

We at Metro want you to know we don't support people like Donald Sterling advertising in our classified section. She must have found him some other way. Maybe racistsugardaddyforme.com?

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more images from North Carolina's Outer Banks

Outer Banks offers different strokes for different folks

More than just a golf destination.
Once you've tired of swinging the sticks, there's still plenty more to take in on a trip to North Carolina's rugged coastline

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

Nags Head Golf Links is cruelly exposed to the turbulent waters of the Atlantic and offers a challenging 18-hole game. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/PLAYOBXGOLF.COM

Even for golfers determined to spend every possible moment swinging the sticks, the Outer Banks of North Carolina offer other attractions too essential to ignore.

Foremost among them is the Wright Brothers National Memorial, set on the now hallowed ground near the beach town of Kitty Hawk where Wilbur and Orville Wright launched the first powered air flight in 1903.

A stone pillar marks the precise spot of that epochal liftoff, and the site's prize attraction is a full-scale replica of the Wright Flyer, their first primitive aircraft.

The Wright brothers are credited with making famous this sun-drenched 320-kilometre long chain of barrier islands, just off the coast of North Carolina and a small stretch of Virginia.

Today, the coastline's white sand beaches, lighthouses, oyster houses, quaint shingle-sided inns and outstanding golf courses are year-round attractions — although peak season runs from May through September.

Capricious winds off the turbulent waters offshore, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic, frequently bedevil golfers at the popular oceanfront courses of OBX, as tourism marketers have branded the Outer Banks.

Most cruelly exposed to the elements is Nags Head Golf Links, a Scottish-style design where several holes play alongside Roanoke Sound. Golf Digest called architect Bob Moore's layout "the longest 6,126 yards you'll ever play."

Another seaside beauty is Currituck Club, a dramatic Rees Jones design that sweeps across 600 acres of dunes, wetlands, maritime forests and sound seascapes.

High seas swept ashore another of the coast's unique attractions. Wild horses, descendants of Spanish mustangs that survived 16th-century shipwrecks, freely roam the dunes of Swan Beach, North Swan Beach and Carova Beach. Jeep tours offered from the nearby town of Corolla provide a close-up look at the tenacious survivors of a herd that once ranged throughout the barrier islands.

Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills, Waves, Duck and other quaintly named and picturesque beachfront towns dot a still largely unpretentious and laid-back strand where many houses are built on stilts for protection against the surging tides that accompany the autumn hurricanes.

Visitors will need a car to travel between golf courses and see the sights. It's a long trek to the Outer Banks from even the closest major airports: Norfolk International Airport is about 145 kilometres from centrally located Nags Head; and Raleigh Durham International Airport about 338 kilometres.

Another must-play course is Kilmarlic Golf Club, a Tom Steele mainland design carved through 600 acres of maritime forest and wetlands. Kilmarlic hosted the North Carolina Open in 2004 and 2009.

A more player-friendly option is The Pointe Golf Club, a traditional Russell Breeden-designed layout in rural countryside on the mainland.

Far more demanding is The Pointe's sister course — the Carolina Club, a brawny 7,000-yard brute where the shifting ocean breezes present a constant challenge. The signature hole here is a 166-yard par three with a TPC Sawgrass-inspired island green.

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Love locks have Parisians keyed up

Seine-sitive subject. Locals are tired of the eyesore and pollution caused by a trite tourist tradition

Padlocks hitched by lovers on the bridges of Paris have become an eyesore, some locals complain. ISTOCK

Without love, what is Paris? And yet what is a trip to Paris without unfettered vistas of the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre or Notre Dame from bridges over the River Seine?

Concerns about scenery are clashing with sentimentality in this reputed City of Love over a profusion of padlocks hitched by lovers on bridges as symbols of everlasting "amour" — locks that some decry as an eyesore.

Part of a global phenomenon, the craze has spread in Paris recently and now two American women who call Paris home have had enough. They've launched a petition to try to get the city's mostly laissez-faire officials to do something. City leaders say they're exploring alternatives.

In urban myth, it goes like this: Latch a padlock to a bridge railing and chuck the key into the water as you make a wish. Some say the tradition has its roots in 19th-century Hungary. Others cite a recent Italian novel as the inspiration.

Campaigners Lisa Taylor Huff and Lisa Anselmo are denouncing what they call a padlock plague, warning of alleged safety risks and arguing the craze is now a cliché. Their petition says "the heart of Paris has been made ugly" by the locks, and the Seine has been polluted by thousands of keys.

Plus, they say, tourists shouldn't be fooled: The locks aren't forever. City crews remove them as they replace damaged structures. One strained rail weighing 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) was recently taken down, a Paris official said.

But their campaign is a hard sell in a metropolis facing myriad problems from air pollution to a housing crunch, and where a polemic over padlocks in mostly tourist areas is a distant worry for many Parisians. French media has given the issue scant attention.

Plus, city authorities know well that tourism is a major moneymaker and have no desire to dampen Paris's reputation as one of the world's most romantic retreats.

The government of Anne Hidalgo, Paris's new mayor, is contemplating how to respond. Her predecessor generally sided with freedom-of-expression advocates. Options range from fines to signs encouraging tourists to be responsible. Enforcement in a city where bikers regularly run red lights could be tricky.

For now, it's the status quo: no restrictions.

"It's spontaneous. And it shows tourists and Parisians are attached to the symbol of Paris as the City of Love," said a City Hall spokeswoman, who declined to be identified by name because of protocol.

"We don't foresee banning them, but we're thinking about another form — an alternative — that tourists and Parisians can use to display their love in a way compatible with respect for city heritage," she said.

Anselmo's and Huff's top complaint is the Pont des Arts, a historic pedestrian bridge near the Louvre with incomparable views of the Seine's Ile de la Cité island. Locks also cling en masse on a bridge near Notre Dame Cathedral and some have even cropped up on the Eiffel Tower.

"We were tourists ourselves once. We're not heartless, celibate people with no love in our lives. It's because we love the city," said Huff. "Do we want this to be the city of locks?"

As the native of Hackettstown, N.J., spoke on the Pont des Arts, the bridge shimmered in the spring sun from thousands of rusting locks on its rails. New ones were going up nearly by the minute.

"We really can't blame the tourists for doing what they think they're allowed to do," said Huff, a writer who also works booking visitor reservations. "If tourists aren't going to be responsible by themselves, it's up to the city to set the limits."

What qualifies as an eyesore depends on the beholder. Some historians once felt the Pont des Arts itself — which originated with Napoleon's wish in 1804 for a footbridge — impeded views of the Louvre, the city hall website reports.

The petition has garnered more than 5,200 signatures so far, mostly from French people, Huff said.

She and Anselmo make their case on nolovelocks.com, but some comments posted there show not all are favourable to their crusade.

The city official said municipal architects have examined and generally discounted the alleged risk that bridge railings might not withstand the weight and could topple over onto tour-boat gawkers.

And now the locks have become an attraction in themselves.

"That's the other sad part: People used to come here to look at the view," Huff said.

"They just see the wall of metal," she said of young children too short to see over the railings. "Is that going to be their memory of Paris?"

On one recent day, Chinese women snapped photos of the Eiffel Tower from the bridge, then posed for one with the locks as a backdrop. A young woman cried with joy and wiped her eyes as a kneeling suitor shouted in English, "She said 'Yes'!" to the applause of other tourists. A vendor quickly folded up a sheet showing his padlocks for sale and fled as four police officers approached.

Huff claimed the illegal vendors sometimes damage railings, prompting city crews to replace them for safety reasons — thus creating more space for the locks they sell.

Other cities have found ways to cope with the lock mania. In Russia, artificial "trees" offer a dedicated padlock area. A mayor in Florence, Italy, reportedly has threatened fines for those who put locks on the famed Ponte Vecchio.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The tourist side

When asked about the anti-lock campaign, tourists showed a mix of understanding and exasperation. "We saw on the Internet that this was one of the things to do in Paris," said Anne O'Connor, a 42-year-old from Crofton, Md. But she conceded the explosion of locks might be seen as an eyesore.

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Bucket List

Camping in Iceland

You may not believe the deals you can get these days with Icelandic Air, which is on a continuous mission to boost tourism on the tiny island. The weather is best in June. Tours within the interior are very organized and not as busy as you would expect — even your mother might like this. Check out VisitIceland.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Strike out on a springtime trip to Boston

From Fenway to Fort Point. There's plenty to see and do in one of the most historic cities in the United States

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Iconic Fenway Park. LOREN CHRISTIE

In the late '90s, I spent three summers in and out of Boston working as a tour guide. This past weekend, I went back to see what's changed in one of America's most historic cities.

After almost 20 years, the Big Dig is over and the snarling traffic is gone. This massive construction project of underground roadways beneath the city included the dismantling of an elevated highway that cut through the downtown. In its place urban parks have sprung up as part of the extensive Rose Kennedy Greenway, which has blazed a two-kilometre swath of green through the city core.

The project has united pedestrians and drawn them to the newly developed waterfront area with food trucks, a carousel and more attractions.

Iconic Fenway Park, home to the city's beloved Red Sox baseball team, used to be on the edge of the tourist trail. The charming Commonwealth Hotel changed that by coming into the area 10 years ago and attracting tourists into neighbouring Kenmore Square. The revitalization of the square with hip restaurants and bars like Eastern Standard have made a pre- or post-game meal an experience, and according to my taxi driver Paul, "turned Kenmore into a paah-ty place."

Fort Point is an historic warehouse district that has been transformed into a collection of artists' workshops, businesses and restaurants. My former employer's headquarters on Congress Street, in the heart of the Fort Point area, is still there. However, instead of a lonely Dunkin' Donuts as the only potential lunch spot, today's Congress Street includes a two-block stretch of modern restaurants that were hopping when I strolled by. My meal of white sausage with hazelnut pesto and sorrels, a perfectly seasoned flank steak with chimichurri sauce and a side of golden beets and cauliflower at buzzy Tavern Road was perfect.

Bostonians have always burst with civic pride, but following last year's Boston Marathon bombings, you get the feeling that it goes beyond the love of hometown sports teams and historic buildings. It seems that every citizen has your back and each other's. After brunch at Towne Stove & Spirits on Boylston Street, blocks from the marathon finish line, I wandered up to Engine 33/Ladder 15 fire hall, which has been in operation since 1888. Taking a suggestion from a local we met the day before, I bought a Boston Fire Department T-shirt as a souvenir. The $20 cost goes to a fund to support the families of two firefighters who recently died in the line of duty.

How-to

Buy the right luggage

1. Are you a hard-case person or a soft one? There's likely a Buzzfeed.com quiz to help you determine this.

2. Shop in person. Look for the lightest bag you can find, but nothing too flimsy.

3. Always go with the next-to-largest size, or at least one size up from what you think you need.

4. Try to avoid black to avoid carousel conundrums. Ditto too many exterior zipper pulls.

5. Extra pouches, compartments and dividers inside just means less room for your stuff. Find a balance.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Tool

Tripping.com

Step away from the run-of-the-mill hotel stay. It's time to test-drive vacation rental search engine Tripping.com, if you haven't already. It corrals together all the peer-to-peer rentals from various rental agencies — HomeAway, Booking.com, HouseTrip, Expedia, etc. — letting you compare more than one million vacation homes and short-term rental properties in 36,000 cities — everything from humble houseboats to giant estates. The filtering is fast and easy to navigate.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Event

Calgary Folk Festival, July 24-27

Tickets are now on sale for the 35th annual celebration of contemporary folk, indie, soul and world music at Calgary's Prince's Island Park. More than 70 acts will hit seven stages, including Andrew Bird and the Hands of Glory and Hey Rosetta! (Thursday), Rufus Wainwright, Amos Lee and Fishbone (Friday), Bruce Cockburn and Patty Griffin (Saturday) and Hydra, The Jayhawks and Matt Andersen and the Mellotones (Sunday). Tickets are expected to sell out by mid-June. Visit calgaryfolkfest.com.

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Earthy and buttery flavours mingle

Porcini-Dusted Fish with Brown Butter Sauce. Use dry mushrooms to create a unique taste

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Dried mushrooms offer up a delicious woodsy flavour to fish and the brown butter sauce makes the experience over the top in taste. You will find dried mushrooms in the produce section of the grocery store for this Porcini-Dusted Fish with Brown Butter Sauce recipe.

These fillets are a generous 6 oz (175 g) portions, a bit larger than the 5 oz (150 g) portions sold in stores. Buying larger fillets and cutting them at home gives you that advantage to enjoy a little more fish. Or you can also serve up six 4 oz (125 g) portions with this same recipe.

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Ingredients

Fish
- 1 pkg (14 g) dried wild mushrooms
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) finely chopped fresh coriander
- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) fresh fish such as pickerel, cod or trout
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) kosher salt
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter

Spinach Skillet Side
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 1 bag (8 oz/227 g) baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) hot pepper sauce (optional)

Fish

1. In clean coffee grinder, grind dried mushrooms to a fine powder. Place in small bowl and add coriander; set aside.

2. Using sharp knife, cut fish into 4 equal portions if fillets are large. Coat each piece with mushroom mixture and place in baking dish. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 4 hours).

3. Sprinkle fish with salt. In a large nonstick skillet, melt 2 tbsp (25 ml) of the butter over medium-high heat until just starting to brown. Add fish, skin side down, if any and cook for 3 minutes. Transfer to parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 425 F (220 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until fish is opaque and flakes easily when tested.

Spinach Skillet Side

A gingery garlic zing matches nicely with spinach to serve up as a side dish for many meals. The added kick of hot pepper sauce adds an almost mellow balance to the dish.

For an added kick, add more hot pepper sauce before serving this side dish.

To make ahead: Cook up the spinach and then let it cool and refrigerate for up to 1 day. Simply warm it up in a skillet or microwave the next day.

1. In a large non-stick skillet, heat the canola oil over medium heat and cook garlic and ginger, stirring for about 2 minutes or until softened.

2. Add the baby spinach and hot pepper sauce and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until spinach is wilted.

This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

Dinner. Roasted Potato-Wrapped Haddock

Ingredients
- 1 tbsp canola or vegetable oil
- 2 medium Yukon gold potatoes
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Dried thyme
- 1 1/4 lbs haddock fillets

1. Heat oven to 400 F. Add oil to large cast-iron skillet, then place skillet in oven to heat.

2. Meanwhile, use mandoline fitted with the thinnest slicing blade to slice the potatoes into very thin rounds. The potato rounds should be as close to paper thin as possible. Set aside.

3. In a small bowl mix mustard and mayonnaise. Set aside.

4. Remove skillet from oven and carefully cover bottom of it with single layer of potato slices, overlapping edges slightly. Season the potatoes with a bit of salt, pepper and thyme.

5. Use paper towels to pat dry the haddock fillets, then brush the mustard-mayo mixture over both sides of the fish. Place the haddock over the potatoes in the skillet, then arrange a second layer of potato slices over the fish, covering it entirely. Season the potatoes with salt, pepper and thyme, then mist them with cooking spray.

6. Return skillet to oven and bake 14 minutes. Increase oven to broil and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes, or until the potatoes are nicely browned. Divide the haddock into 4 pieces, being careful to leave the potatoes in place as you serve the fish.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A need-to-know for workers-in-waiting

Aspiration ammo. Four facts every job seeker should know before heading out on the hunt

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

There's no denying the fact that many hires happen by way of having an 'in' with an organization. Avoid being left out of the loop by getting your name out there as often as you possibly can. ISTOCK

While job hunting is no easy task, knowing the following four facts will help you determine how to best leverage your job seeking methods and up your chances of landing that dream job.

51 per cent of job seekers who use only one method of job-hunting gave up on their job hunt by the second month

According to jobhuntersbible.com, 51 per cent of those who use only one method of job-hunting gave up on their job hunt by the second month.

On the other hand, from the job seekers who are using at least two or more methods, only 31 per cent abandon their search by the second month.

Researchers discovered that job search success rises with each additional method that you use, but only up to four methods.

If you start using five or more job search methods, it will start to hurt your chances of landing a job.

Tip: To maximize your chances of successfully getting a job, devote your time to four proven job search outlets such as networking, LinkedIn, your school's job board and social media.

Most jobs aren't filled by recruiters picking your resumé online

Very few jobs are actually filled by employers or recruiters finding job seekers who posted their resumé on a job board or resumé database.

These databases scan hundreds of resumés for key words, and it next to impossible to make your resumé stand out in this way.

Tip: Instead of posting your resumé on several job boards, a much more effective tactic is to email your resumé to an actual recruiter who will read it with the human eye.

80 per cent of all positions are filled without employer advertising

Employers don't advertise many jobs because it saves time, energy and money during the whole hiring process. There's little need to advertise a job when an employer can simply hire people that they know, or get reliable references, or hire people who actually reach out to them directly.

Tip: Make sure you are always making valuable connections and keeping in touch, whether it's with your professors, past employers or recruiters working at your companies of interest.

Try following up with and contacting recruiters by introducing yourself, outlining your career aspirations and asking for an informational interview.

Reach out to your school's alumni network and start a friendly chat with a fellow grad in your field of interest to learn more about how they transitioned into the workplace. After all, they were once in the same position as you and will be able to give you sound advice.

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- According to Alex Moore, CEO of Baydin (an email management service), emails sent between 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. are about three times more likely to be opened than emails sent at 4 p.m. Most employers check their emails in the morning, so make sure yours is right at the top of the pile.

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Of greens and dream teams

Plant some productivity. Stopping to smell the flowers may be as important to an office worker as it is to an outdoor wanderer

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

It's been a long Canadian winter, but signs of spring are everywhere — with national mood-lifting effects.

To amplify the productivity boost that comes from the seasonal change, put some flowers on your desk.

A recent study from Texas A&M University found that having flowers and greenery around positively affected employees' ability to generate ideas and problem-solve at work.

Head researcher Roger Ulrich and his team found that employees were able to generate 15 per cent more ideas and come up with a greater supply of flexible solutions to problems when they shared their workspace with flowers.

Feel-better flowers

Beyond ideation, flowers at work have a significant and positive effect on your health and well-being, say researchers.

Having fresh blooms on your desk can lower your anxiety, combat depression, reduce negative thinking, and may even have a positive impact on memory. Some studies show that surrounding yourself with indoor plants can help reduce fatigue, coughs, sore throats and other cold-related illnesses by up to 30 per cent — which translates into increased productivity, fewer sick days, and cost savings for employers.

Scientists at the University of Exeter studying the links between flowers and creativity found that adding office plants to workspaces resulted in a 47 per cent boost to staff well-being and a 45 per cent increase in their ability to be creative.

Virtual nature

Breaking up your workday for a walk outside delivers an amazing mood uplift and psychological refresh.

Research shows a connection between office plants and creative thinking. ISTOCK

Likewise, studies show that exposure to simulated nature scenes can also have a positive impact on your productivity and mood. Slate has reported psychological research by Deltcho Valtchanov in which he placed participants in a virtual reality space filled with simulated trees, flowers, plants, grass and they experienced higher levels of happiness, friendliness, affection, and playfulness.

If that convinces you to swap your desktop wallpaper for images of flowers and leaves, head over to Nature Wallpaper for some stunning free downloads optimized for mobile, desktop screens, or social profiles.

Blossoming at work

Gadgets aside, science provides proof of the restorative potential of nature and the mood boost that comes from a "living" work environment.

Dialling up the leafy factor of your workspace and increasing the green time in your workday is not only good for your mental health, but also contributes to more focused work performance and increased job satisfaction.

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NHL

Brown, Getzlaf, Toews look most like Moose

Dustin Brown of the Los Angeles Kings, Ryan Getzlaf of the Anaheim Ducks and Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks are the three finalists for the Mark Messier NHL Leadership Award.

The award is given annually "to the player who exemplifies great leadership qualities to his team, on and off the ice, during the regular season."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Harper hurting again, this time it's his thumb

Washington outfielder Bryce Harper had surgery on his injured left thumb on Tuesday.

Manager Matt Williams would not commit to a time frame but said, "that time frame is out there" after reports Monday that he would be out until at least July.

The two-time all-star was placed on the 15-day disabled list on Sunday with what was then called a sprained left thumb.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA playoffs

Mavericks' Blair high kicks his way out of Game 5

Dallas Mavericks centre DeJuan Blair has been suspended for Game 5 of the first-round series against San Antonio for kicking the Spurs' Tiago Splitter in the head.

Blair and Splitter got tangled up and fell to the court in the fourth quarter of San Antonio's 93-89 victory in Dallas on Monday night. After the whistle blew, signalling a foul on Blair, he kicked his former teammate with his left foot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mavs forward DeJuan Blair
GETTY IMAGES

Plenty of backup in this 'street fight'

NBA playoffs. Inside and out, fans are helping fuel Raptors in first-round bout with Brooklyn

Fans have come out in droves and braved cold and wet weather at Maple Leaf Square outside the Air Canada Centre to watch the Raptors' first-round playoff series against the Brooklyn Nets. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In the moments before the Toronto Raptors took the court for Game 4 in Brooklyn, they huddled in the locker-room and watched footage of their fans gathered back home in Maple Leaf Square.

The Raptors went on to win Game 4 and even up the series and say they've drawn inspiration from the swell of support they're receiving in their home city.

"I told the team, the fans are doing their part, we've got to do our part as a team, as a group of guys to lead the fight on the court, because the fans are behind us 100 per cent and they're loud and they're very proud. And they should be," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

The Raptors expect a repeat of Sunday, when a capacity crowd of 2,500 red-clad fans jammed Maple Leaf Square to watch the game on the giant screen outside the Air Canada Centre. Thousands more packed the roads leading up to the ACC in a raucous outdoor celebration.

"Oh man, it's unbelievable, our fan base," Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry said. "It makes you want to just be a part of it. Things that we're doing right now and the way the fan base is going out there, we want to go out there and play hard and give them a reason to keep coming back and packing Maple Leaf Square and packing the ACC."

It's been a fierce fight on the court.

Casey said he expects both teams to come out swinging in Game 5 on Wednesday.

"It's not going to be all smiles and bubble gum and fruitcakes ... it's going to be a street fight," Casey said. "That's the way we've got to come out, with that mentality."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mutual admiration

"We need our fans, we love our fans.... We can't wait to see (Wednesday) night, the vibe and the energy we're going to get."

Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry

Raptors to address Sterling situation

The Toronto Raptors say they'll make a gesture of support for the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night over the Donald Sterling controversy.

- "We're united.... You've got to respect that," said Raptors all-star DeMar DeRozan.

"That's the great thing about us. Society is not in that place anymore. You see guys from all different cultures, all different parts of the country, different parts of the world all coming together as one. Comments like that are uncalled for."

Donald Sterling. Playoff boycott was on table before commissioner's ruling

NBA commissioner Adam Silver
GETTY IMAGES

NBA players strongly considered boycotting playoff games if commissioner Adam Silver hadn't ruled harshly against Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

Players' union vice-president Roger Mason Jr. says he spoke to representatives from every playoff team about the possibility of boycotting games in solidarity against any ruling that didn't include a mandate for Sterling to sell the Clippers.

The Clippers hosted the Golden State Warriors Tuesday night.

Mason says the players are very happy with Silver's decision to ban Sterling for life while urging the NBA's board of governors to compel Sterling to sell the Clippers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike likes

"I applaud NBA commissioner Adam Silver's swift and decisive response today. He sent a powerful message that there can be zero tolerance for racism and hatred in the NBA."

NBA legend and Charlotte Bobcats owner Michael Jordan

4 SPORTS

Wicked Strong boasts Beantown backbone

Exercise rider Kelvin Pahal takes Kentucky Derby hopeful Wicked Strong for a morning workout at Churchill Downs Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. Wicked Strong has a built-in fan base for the Kentucky Derby — the entire city of Boston. The colt named in honour of the victims of last year's Boston Marathon bombings figures to be among the favourites for Saturday's race. He's got the credentials, having impressively won the Wood Memorial at 9-1 odds. Wicked Strong is owned by a Boston-based partnership that has pledged to donate five per cent of any money won by the bay colt during the Triple Crown series to the fund set up for the bombing victims. Scan the above image with the Metro News app to view a gallery of Tuesday's events at Churchill Downs.

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Sharks get one final shot at ousting Kings

NHL playoffs. L.A. has dug itself out of 3-0 series deficit for a chance to advance past opening round

It should come as no shock that the Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks are preparing for a Game 7 in their first-round series considering how tightly contested this fierce California rivalry has been over the last few years.

The surprise is how the teams got to Wednesday night's win-or-go-home game.

The Sharks were dominant early, winning the first three games and making former playoff MVP Jonathan Quick look rather pedestrian as he allowed 16 goals in those losses.

The Sharks' Tommy Wingels checks the Kings' Anze Kopitar on Monday in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But the Kings responded to win three straight games by three goals to force the showdown in San Jose for a spot in the second round against Anaheim.

"We understand what's at stake," Sharks forward Joe Pavelski said. "There was the possibility the series was going to go to seven. We probably didn't think it was going to get there this way, but we're here now and guys will be ready to play."

The Kings are the ninth team to force a Game 7 after losing the first three games. Three of the previous eight finished the job although the Sharks can take solace in the fact that they avoided that same collapse in 2011 when they rebounded from three straight losses to beat Detroit 3-2 at home to advance to the Western Conference finals.

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Defoe back at '100 per cent'

MLS. Striker expected to return to TFC lineup after missing the team's last three games

Toronto FC has gone 1-2-0 without Jermain Defoe in the lineup.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Striker Jermain Defoe says he is back to 100 per cent and ready to play for Toronto FC — and England.

"It's been really frustrating because when you get off to a good start, you just want it to continue as long as possible," said Defoe, who scored three goals in his first two games in Major League Soccer before being sidelined with a hamstring strain in late March.

"But it happens. It's football, you get little niggles. Luckily enough it wasn't something that was too serious. It was just a case of resting and doing your rehab stuff. But yeah it feels fine now. I feel 100 per cent. I've worked really hard. So maybe I'll come back stronger than I was before, which is important for the team."

Saturday's game against the visiting New England Revolution (3-3-2) will mark five weeks since Defoe walked off the field favouring his hamstring in the 61st minute of a 3-0 loss to Real Salt Lake. Thanks to a bye, he only missed three games with Toronto (3-3-0) going 1-2-0 in his absence.

Defoe, speaking to reporters after practice Tuesday, rubbished the suggestion that the injury layoff may affect his chances at making England's World Cup squad. England manager Roy Hodgson plans to name his 23-man roster on May 13.

"I missed three games. It happens in football, players get injured," said the 31-year-old Defoe, who has 55 caps for England. "But if you miss three games and that changes the fact that you could, I don't know, go to a tournament, that's crazy."

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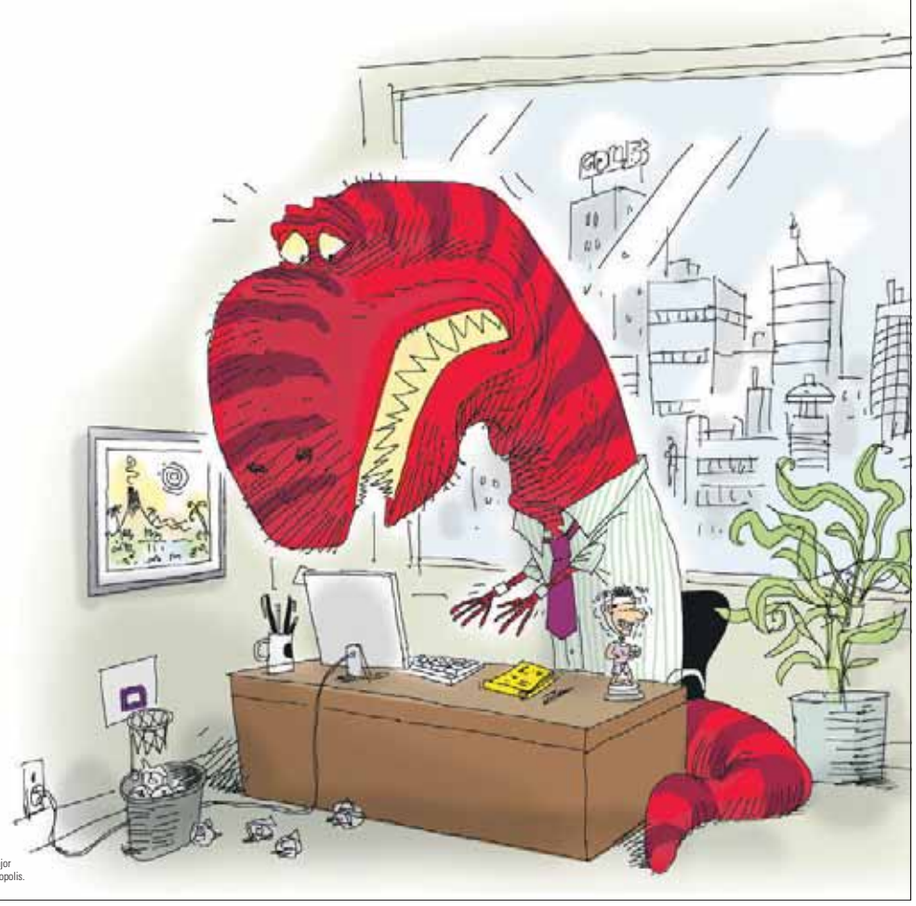

"Number one job site" based on six-month average online job postings for period ending March 31, 2014. Comparison between Workopolis and all other major paid online job boards. Does not include online classified sites or job posting aggregator sites. Statistics provided by WANTED Technologies. © 2014 Workopolis.

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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app. By the numbers! Learn more about the 2015 Honda Fit

2015 Honda Fit

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 1.5-litre DOHC 14 (130)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable (CVT)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $16,000

Market position

The range of small models continues to hold steady, with redesigned versions now being adorned with more standard and optional content. This tends to attract buyers who prefer all the goodies in a smaller package.

Points

- Redesigned top to bottom, but retains similar look
- New four-cylinder engine ups power while slightly improving fuel economy
- CVT saves fuel, but isn't as smooth as traditional automatic
- All-new, larger HR-V wagon based on Fit platform due to arrive early next year
- Impressive people, cargo space makes Fit tops in small wagon class

The Fit has been lauded for its fun-to-drive qualities.

Safety

Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.

Honda's latest is a perfect Fit

Review. This mighty little hatchback keeps drivers thinking they're ensconced in a larger vehicle

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

"The penalty box of life."

Jeff Conrad, Honda's senior vice president and general manager, uses that phrase in reference to the Fit's small-car competitors. And when comparing the latest edition of Honda's mighty little hatchback to the rest of the field, he may well have a point.

Since the car's 2007 arrival, critics have lauded its fun-to-drive qualities and impressive carrying capacity.

The Fit sticks to a proven formula: Keep the size and weight in check; keep the body lean and spacious; and keep drivers and passengers thinking they're ensconced in a vehicle that's larger than it actually is.

Despite being physically and dimensionally similar (a tiny bit wider and longer in distance between the front and rear wheels, but slightly shorter, overall), the Fit actually looks bigger, which is partly a function of more prominent bodyside creases and fenders that bulge out around the wheel openings. Also, the wraparound headlight pods integrate with the grille and no longer extend alongside the hood. Getting the Fit underway is now the job of a new 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that delivers 130 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, compared to 117 horses and 106 pound-feet of torque for the previous 1.5.

Directing power to the front wheels is handled by a new six-speed manual transmission, or equally new continuously variable unit (CVT) option. Honda offers an automatic sport mode with paddle shifters, but ultimately it's no substitute for a multi-speed automatic, even if the latter tends to be slightly less fuel-efficient. Fortunately the standard six-cog manual gearbox is there to save the day.

Compare

1 Ford Fiesta Hatchback
Base price: $16,200
Sharp styling, three-cylinder turbo option make Fiesta a popular pick.

2 Nissan Versa Note
Base price: $14,900
Low-priced wagon holds an impressive amount of stuff. Easy on gas.

3 Chevrolet Sonic Hatchback
Base price: $16,000
Junior-sized Chevy also comes in sedan version, as do other competitors.

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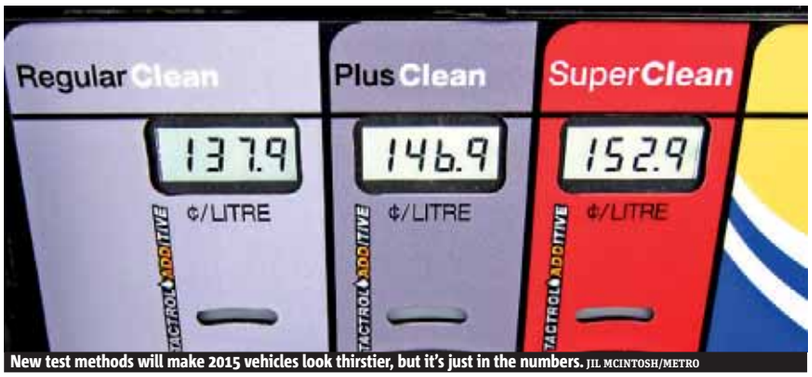

New test methods will make 2015 vehicles look thirstier, but it's just in the numbers. JIL MCINTOSH/METRO

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Fuel efficiency.

New testing procedure will result in more realistic fuel numbers

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

It's not likely that gas prices are ever going to go down by much, which means many Canadians consider good fuel economy to be very important when buying a car. But when you look at the fuel efficiency figures on upcoming 2015 vehicles, they may look thirstier than the 2014 models.

It's not because they actually use more gas. Instead, Natural Resources Canada is introducing a new testing procedure that results in more realistic fuel numbers.

"The government of Canada changed the fuel ratings to better reflect the fuel consumptions that (Canadians are) likely to achieve under today's typical driving conditions and driving styles," says Fabian Allard, deputy director at Natural Resources' Energy Efficiency transportation division. "We've been working with the auto industry on these changes for quite some time."

Fuel efficiency testing isn't done on a test track, but in a lab, since it's the only way to guarantee consistency. Engineers run vehicles on a dynamometer, and determine fuel consumption by measuring the amount of carbon in the exhaust.

Up until now, engineers have used a two-cycle test. The city test starts with a cold engine, takes 31 minutes, and runs at an average 34 km/h, with 23 stops. The highway test starts with a warm engine, takes 12 minutes, and runs an average 78 km/h. In each test, the lab temperature is set between 20 C and 30 C.

The new five-cycle test also uses these, but then adds a cold-weather city test with the lab a chilly -7 C; a nine-minute air conditioning test, with the vehicle's a/c running and the lab set to 35 C; and a nine-minute test that includes hard acceleration and a top speed of 129 km/h. All of these factors typically use more fuel.

Automakers do the testing and forward results to Natural Resources. The government sometimes audits results if it thinks the numbers aren't right, or if a model hasn't been tested for a long time or has new technologies. Auditors will use real-life vehicles purchased for the testing.

The EnerGuide labels on 2015 models will explain the new system and numbers. On 2016 labels, you'll see information such as CO2 emissions, combined city and highway ratings, and comparisons with other vehicles in the segment. There will also be clearer information for alternative vehicles such as electric cars and plug-in hybrids.

Facts and tips

- The new 2015 testing methods may produce fuel figures that are 10 to 20 per cent higher than the 2014 numbers.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles are tested in two-wheel drive, and the results are adjusted for extra weight and engine load.
- The 2016 Canadian label will align with the U.S., which has used five-cycle testing since 2008.

Quoted

"This will provide Canadians with the most accurate information available. It takes into account bad driving, colder temperatures, and the use of accessories."

Fabian Allard, deputy director at Natural Resources' energy efficiency transportation division

This part of your car is a thief magnet

Catalytic converter. This component of your vehicle's exhaust system is full of precious metals, making it a theft target

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Vehicles have always held a special place in the heart of thieves. They steal whole vehicles. They steal loose stuff inside vehicles. They steal parts, even when they are attached quite seriously to the mother ship.

For the latter category, it used to be things like hood ornaments, car stereos and nice wheels, but these days it's more likely to be airbags and catalytic converters.

You can significantly reduce your chances of having your steering wheel airbag ripped off by simply locking the doors. You don't have that security measure with your catalytic converter, however, which is part of your vehicle's exhaust system, and just hanging there under your vehicle (between the exhaust manifold and the muffler) and prone to take off like a Labrador retriever with everyone they meet — especially some new person with a sawzall and/or propane cutting torch.

Of course, catalytic converters are theft targets because they are full of precious metals. The metals are used as catalysts, when things get (purposefully) really hot inside the converter, to convert bad stuff (left over from the rarely 100 percent efficient combustion process) into more benign stuff.

Maybe you're like me and have a new appreciation for chemistry ever since Walter White and Jessie Pinkman got into all those cool shenanigans in Breaking Bad. If so, here's a quick rundown on the super-neat and pricey metals inside the converter and why they're there ...

Rhodium: A minor catalyst. Also used as an alloying agent to harden platinum and palladium. Melts at 1,966 degrees Celsius.

Platinum: A major catalyst. Platinum is deactivated in the presence of lead, which is the primary reason why we got rid of leaded gas.

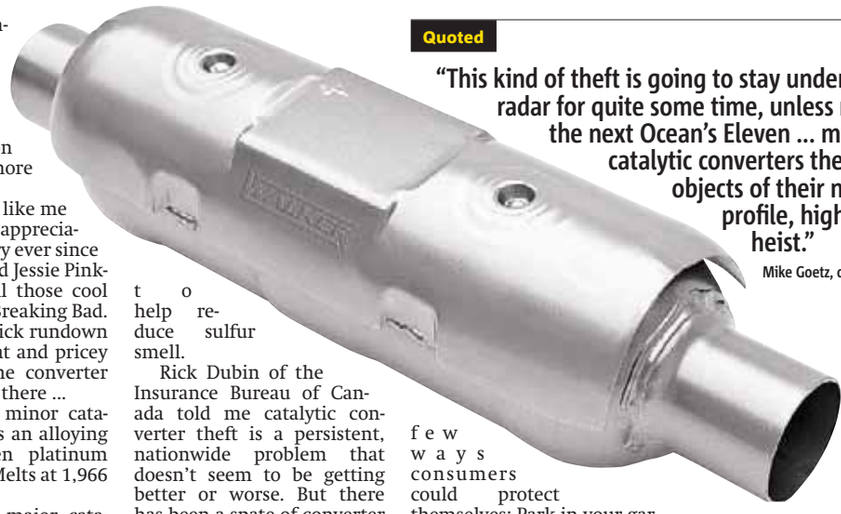
Palladium: A catalyst substitute for platinum. Can absorb 900 times its volume in Hydrogen, and melts at 1,554 degrees Celsius.

Nickel: Sometimes added to help reduce sulfur smell.

Converter metals vs. gold

• Gold	$1,300
• Platinum	$1,400
• Palladium	$800
• Rhodium	$1,200

Current per-ounce price (approximate)



A catalytic converter. COURTESY WALKER EMISSIONS CONTROL

Quoted

"This kind of theft is going to stay under the radar for quite some time, unless maybe the next Ocean's Eleven ... makes catalytic converters the desired objects of their next high-profile, high-stakes heist."

Mike Goetz, columnist

Rick Dubin of the Insurance Bureau of Canada told me catalytic converter theft is a persistent, nationwide problem that doesn't seem to be getting better or worse. But there has been a spate of converter thefts over the last year in Coquitlam, B.C., prompting the local RCMP attachment there to issue a warning about the problem. Like most converter theft, the Coquitlam victims were trucks and SUVs, which are easier to slide under than passenger cars.

The Mounties suggested a few ways consumers could protect themselves: Park in your garage; have extra metal welded to your exhaust system (maybe cheaper than your insurance deductible); get your catalytic converter etched so it can be traced and hopefully returned; educate yourself and your neighbours about catalytic converter theft and related suspicious behaviour.

All good ideas, but I think this kind of theft is going to stay under the radar for quite some time, unless maybe the next Ocean's Eleven (or whatever number they're up to now) makes catalytic converters the desired objects of their next high-profile, high-stakes heist.

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PETER BASSEL
1393 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON., M4N 2T7
GARY HILLIER
170 Jarvis St, Toronto, ON., M5B 2B7
PETER LITTLE
74 Southvale Dr, Toronto, ON., M4G 1G5
ANITA SANCHEZ
6-47 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, ON., M2N 5N1
DONNALEE LYNN VESTER
310-55 Broadway Ave, Toronto, ON., M4P 1T8

According to the Lease by and between the customers listed above and All Canadian Self-Storage and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in Order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s). Upon a cursory inspection, the units were found to contain: Household goods, Items will be sold or otherwise Disposed of at this site on dates and at approximate times listed by the Addresses above to satisfy owner lien in accordance with the state statues. Terms of the sale are cash only. No checks will be accepted. All goods are sold In "as is" condition. Tax must be paid or resale numbers furnished. Buyers Must provide own lock if needed. Seller reserves the right to overbid. All Items Or spaces may not be available on date of sale.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Some people won't hesitate to part you from your cash if they can see a way to do it. Don't be suspicious of everyone you meet today but remember there are bad guys in the world.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no doubt you will achieve much over the next few weeks but you will achieve even more if you can persuade others to take on the boring chores, giving you more time for things that really matter.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may have to get tough with someone who has let you down. Don't go over the top and create unnecessary resentment but do make sure they realize this is the last warning they'll get.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It's not easy being a role model but if anyone can do it you can. Be on your best behaviour today, set a good example and only do what is inspiring.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will come in for criticism of today but if you are smart, you will ignore it completely. At best it is misguided, at worst it is sour grapes. The fact is some people envy you for being such a larger-than-life character.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Accusations will fly thick and fast today but none of the mud that is thrown will stick to you. It's not that you are whiter-than-white — you just know how to disguise what you do better than most people!

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must not take unnecessary risks today, especially with money. Keep your cash in your pocket and don't let anyone, no matter how smooth-talking, persuade you there is easy money to be made.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Taurus means you won't get far on your own over the next few days, so let partners and loved ones and work colleagues know you need and value their support.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't worry too much if you get behind in your work because there will be plenty of time to catch up later on. It would help, of course, if you were not so willing to take on other people's tasks.

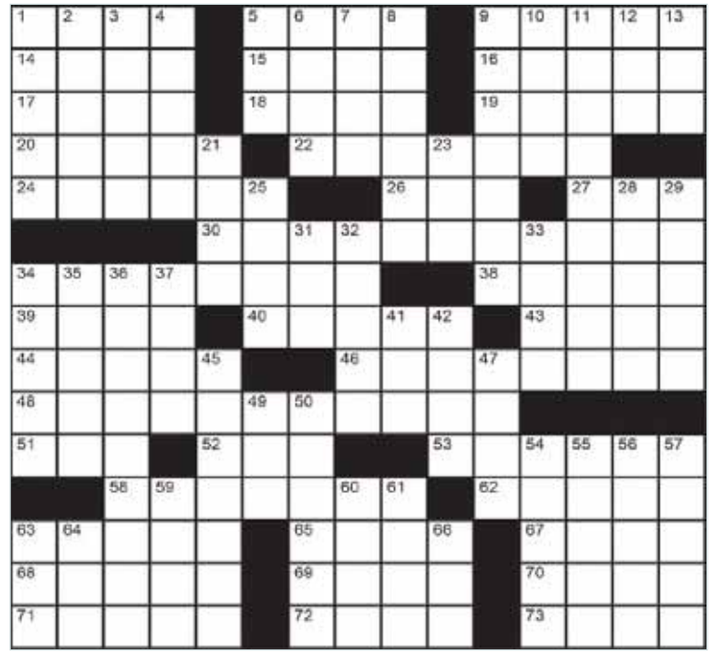
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Anything of a creative nature will go well for you but it will go even better if you make an effort to bring other people into your plans. Friends and loved loves want to help.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Focus on helping others today. Everyone knows you're talented but what they may not know is that you get a huge kick from doing good for others.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Socially, this will be a great day but some of your friends may be angry that you are spending more time with new acquaintances than you are with them. You can't help if you're popular. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

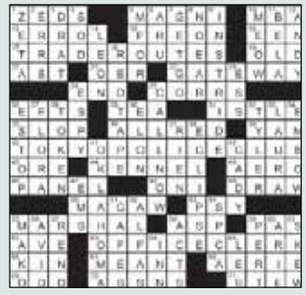
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Seasoning sort
5. Breeze
9. Swift
14. Nursemaid
15. Really rain
16. "The Jetsons" son
17. Low-cal
18. Yesteryear
19. BBQ cut
20. Ms. Ekberg
22. Motto of outstanding achievement honour the Order of Canada: Desiderantes Meliorem __ (They desire a better country)
24. Mr. Sutherland
26. Midmorning time
27. Couch break
30. "Which Way You Goin' Billy?" by Canadian band The __ __
34. Spinning-in-the-wind toy
38. Iceland band, __ Ros
39. Dosage, __ _ day
40. Steam bath
43. "The King's Speech" (2010) actress Jennifer
44. Fighting: 2 wds.
46. HST = Harmonized __ __
48. 1840s: The Great Famine led families to emigrate from Ireland to Canada by way of '__ __', so-called because of the many who died from the putrid conditions on board
51. Vertical's opp.
52. Morning grass stuff
53. Shania Twain's "Don't Be __ (You Know I Love You)"
58. Shake
62. Steeple
63. Carpentry joint part
65. Cab
67. Spare
68. Disguised, informally
69. Happy as a __
70. Barenaked Ladies title lady
71. Wants
72. __ seed oil
73. Heavy weight units [var. sp.]

Down
1. Lunchtime greenery
2. __ acid
3. Fancy tongue
4. 8th Greek letter
5. Operative
6. Fun-style negative
7. Etheric emanation
8. "__ Woman" (1990)
9. Eyes parts
10. Dawn love song
11. 1980 horror flick starring actor Leslie Nielsen: 2 wds.
12. 'Restrict' suffix
13. Tie-__
21. Rush's "Xanadu" bit: "To seek the sacred river __..."
23. Athletics authority [abbr.]
25. Performs
28. 1956 rocker: "Be-Bop-_-__"
29. Heat-resistant glassware
31. Fairy princess annoyance
32. Lavish
33. Architect, Ludwig __ van der Rohe
34. Illegally hunt
35. __ __ deep (Over one's head)
36. Region of The New World for Samuel de Champlain: 2 wds.
37. WWII RAF support gr.
41. B'__ B'rith
42. Snow-capped sights
45. Papineau, for Justin Trudeau ...and Outremont, for Thomas Mulcair
47. Approx. figures
49. Clear
50. Swiss timepiece brand
54. Disturb
55. Middle C site
56. Dick __, Jr. (Broadcasting legend)
57. Feats
59. Fine
60. Story
61. Test
63. Can
64. Opposite WSW
66. Gremlin

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4		9			5	8	
3				2		6		4
7				5				
	7	3			4		2	
				8				
	9		3			4	1	
				9				1
5		6		1				9
	1	2			8		3	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	9	8	3	5	2	7	4
4	2	7	1	9	6	5	3	8
3	8	5	4	7	2	9	6	1
7	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	2
6	4	2	9	5	8	7	1	3
8	9	3	7	2	1	6	4	5
5	7	8	3	6	4	1	2	9
2	1	4	5	8	9	3	8	7
9	3	6	2	1	7	4	5	6

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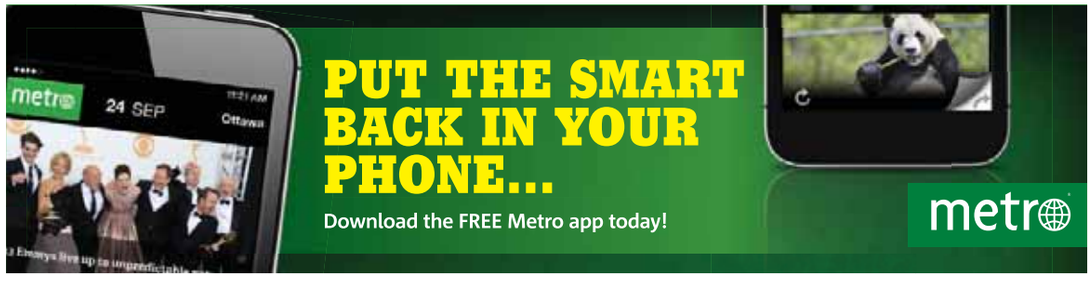

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Forte SX shown^
Cash purchase price $28,014

FORTE

hwy / city 100km^
5.3L/8.0L

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Rio4 SX with Navigation shown^
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